



Environmental Impact Assessment

The application for a revised layout requires a new Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) to be undertaken.

An EIA records the baseline environmental conditions for a development site and predicts how those characteristics will be affected by the construction, operation and decommissioning of the wind farm.

The baseline environmental conditions of the wind farm site also identify areas of environmental sensitivity which inform the wind farm design.

The planning principle for a wind farm has been established in this location by the current consent which was granted following examination at a Public Local Inquiry.

For the new application, the EIA will update the previous assessments with new baseline studies where relevant and assess the impact of the revised wind farm design on a range of environmental issues, including:

Landscape and Visual

The Landscape and Visual impact Assessment (LVIA) identifies the effects of new developments on views and on the landscape. The assessment will be accompanied by visualizations (photomontages) that show what the final proposal would look like in the landscape from surrounding viewpoints.

The proposed changes in turbine dimensions and the layout will mean that updates to the landscape and visual assessment are required. Cumulative landscape impacts with other existing and proposed wind farms will also be assessed in the EIA.

Noise

The revised turbine models have the potential to change the noise emissions as assessed in the original application. To ensure that the proposal can comply with national guidelines relating to noise from wind farms, the assessment will be re-run based on the new candidate turbine.